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Correspondence

To the Editor:

I am a subscriber to your Journal since I obtained in Los Angeles license C-1 54 as physician and surgeon, and even before. I like it more and more, and I insist upon congratulating you upon your fine editorials. They are brief, terse, to the point. Anent your November issue, allow me a few brief and terse remarks.

First, the fellow who figured out that there are too many physicians in America should have been here last year in October when I, a man of 59 years, in the absence of so many confreres who were serving Uncle Sam in the army, had to work like a beaver 16 hours a day in order to satisfy in a small way the manifold demands of the suffering.

Secondly, going as it were from the sublime to the ridiculous, the little stories related by Dr. W. Montgomery in his reminiscence of the Obstetrical Society of San Francisco, might be supplemented by one, a confrere of mine, experienced in his second year of medical practice. He attended a primipara, which made very slow progress; the husband grew uneasy and insisted on a consultation with old Dr. Smith, a quack, who had had many convictions to his record for illegally practicing medicine. The young physician quite reluctantly consented to the consultation. Old Dr. Smith proposed at once quilling. "What do you mean?" said my young confrere. "I will show you," came the answer. Here Dr. Smith filled a goose quill opened at both ends with smoking tobacco, blew it into the nostrils of the woman primipara; the latter was taken with a violent sneezing. At the third sneezing the baby was born, expelled by one extreme contraction of all expulsive muscles.

Sincerely,

(Signed) THEO. J. JACQUEMIN,
506 Clinton Ave.,
West Hoboken, N. J.

Notices

TO COUNTY SECRETARIES

When reporting the names of new members you are asked to send the name in full (not initials) stating it as given in the California license to practise medicine issued to such member. Furthermore, when a woman physician's name is presented if she is married since her California license was issued you should also give the name under which she was licensed to practise medicine.

Please report all deaths of physicians in your locality, whether members of the Medical Society or not to the secretary. By this co-operation you will enable this office to keep its system of records complete.

It is important that members understand that if 1920 dues are not paid by March 1, their name is taken from the mailing list for the Journal and is not reinstated until such time as dues are paid. Also, that by non-payment of dues for several months members lose their medical defense protection during the time in which they are delinquent. Thus, if a member does not make payment of dues until August 1, 1920, he is not protected from January 1 until August 1.

TO AUTHORS

Authors must not use ink in making corrections on proofs sent them from this office. The ink is absorbed and blots the corrections made so that in many cases it is almost impossible to decipher them.

TO PHYSICIANS

It is a violation of the Harrison Narcotic Law to move your office even from one room to another in the same building without notifying the internal revenue office of the change within the calendar month.

State Society

Two meetings of the council have taken place, one held October 18th in Los Angeles, and a second in San Francisco, November 8. Besides the general routine business the important question of the meetings was that of the fee schedule for industrial accident cases. The committee of the Council which has been working for the past three months made its report at this time. The substance of that report was that a general revision of the fee schedule had been undertaken with a 25 per cent. raise in fees. The committee had also devised new blanks for the reporting of industrial accident cases which were very much simpler than those now in use and will reduce the office work of the physicians attending these cases. The effort of the committee at first had been to get a 50 per cent. raise in fees and to establish flat fees for definite types of cases; that is, to have a definite compensation for cases which run in usual types, such as well recognized fractures and dislocations, this fee to cover the entire course of treatment. This increase, however, seemed more than the carriers could possibly agree to.

The entire subject of the fee schedule, after action of the council, must be presented before the State Compensation Insurance Fund and the various carriers for their approval. At the present writing it seems as if an agreement will be obtained upon the essential points in the schedule.

Provision is also made in the schedule for the compensation of physicians who have cases taken out of their hands and sent to other men. It has been thought for a long time that this was a gross injustice to the man who originally took care of the case and rendered valuable aid. As the situation stands in the proposed schedule, the physician rendering the first assistance will be given adequate compensation for his services, while the man who gets the case subsequently will receive it less a certain proportion of the total compensation.

Another important question which was presented before the Council at this meeting was the resolutions from the various societies of anesthetists throughout the state. Some effort is being made to establish a ruling by which anesthetics shall be given only by regularly licensed physicians. The Council recognized the magnitude of this problem and has referred it to the House of Delegates at the next regular meeting of the Medical Society.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

In many instances members returning from United States Government service failed to notify the Medical Society, State of California, 930 Butler Bldg., San Francisco, of their return to civil practice and their permanent address, and in consequence there were many complaints of failure to receive the Journal. When the State Society office is notified by the Postoffice Department that it is impossible to deliver the Journal because of the removal of an addressee whose whereabouts are unknown, we are obliged to take such a member's name off the mailing list until such time as we receive word from him as to his correct address. PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THAT YOU SHOULD NOTIFY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, 930 BUTLER BLDG., SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE WHENEVER YOU MAKE A MOVE that the necessary change may be made on our mailing list. THIS IS IMPORTANT if you wish to receive the Journal.

REMEMBER, also, that if your name is to be included in the Roster of Members for the year 1920, published by the Medical Society, State of California, your payment should be made to your County Secretary and reported to this office by March 1st.

SAXTON POPE, Secretary,
Medical Society, State of California.

